

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122805

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 122805

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI,TBIO

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN: ENTOMOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON  
DESVENTURADAS ISLANDS

1. DR. J.F. GATES CLARKE, SMITHSONIAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND RETIRED SENIOR ENTOMOLOGIST, PLANS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH ON MICROLEPIDOPTERA (SMALL MOTHS) OF ISLA SAN FELIX AND ISLA SAN AMBROSIO, THE MAJOR ISLANDS OF THE DESVENTURADAS GROUP, DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1976. RESEARCH WOULD BE BEST UNDERTAKEN DURING DARK PHASE OF MOON IN LATE OCTOBER SO INSECTS MAY BE ATTRACTED WITH LIGHTS. CLARKE THEREFORE HOPES LEAVE FROM VALPARAISO ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 15TH AND ARRIVE ISLANDS ABOUT 4 OR 5 DAYS LATER.

2. RESEARCH IS UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF SMITHSONIAN WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY. DR. CLARKE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY WILLIAM H. ROWE, MUSEUM TECHNICIAN, DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 122805

3. DR. CLARKE HAS ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION

TO ISLANDS ON FISHING BOATS, BUT HAS HAD NO SUCCESS.

HE HAS BEEN WORKING THROUGH DR. RAUL CORTES, TRONCOS VIEJOS 2303, SANTIAGO 12 (SUMMER ADDRESS CASILLA 66, ARICA) FOR TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVICE AND PERHAPS ASSISTANCE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION THROUGH CHILEAN NAVY OR ANY OTHER MEANS. CLARKE AND ROWE WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT SINCE THEY MUST CARRY ALL FOOD AND WATER FOR STAY AS WELL AS COLLECTING GEAR, "BLACK LIGHT" FLUORESCENT TUBES, AND BATTERIES. RESEARCH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN A WEEK'S TIME.

4. RESEARCH ON THESE ISLANDS IS IMPORTANT FROM SEVERAL ASPECTS - THEY ARE ISOLATED AND HAVE NO INTRODUCED TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES; NONE OF THE ISLANDS' MOTHS ARE NOW KNOWN; RESEARCH WOULD ADD MORE DATA ON QUESTION OF LOCATION OF DIVIDING LINE SEPARATING AREAS INFLUENCED BY ORIENTAL AND AMERICAN MOTH FAUNAS.

5. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON ANY SPECIAL CHILEAN REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH IN DESVENTURADAS AREA. KISSINGER

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